

SECTION 3

PROJECT START/DIARY/PROGRESS REPORT

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SECTION 3 CONSTRUCTION STATUS

The Change in Status is used to start, suspend or resume time charges on a project or to indicate that the project is completed.

Depending on the type of completion date shown in the bidder's proposal, time charges for a project begin on:

1. The date shown on the Time for Completion page of the bidder's proposal for the project
2. The proposed starting date indicated by the contractor on the Proposed Progress Chart. This chart is found in the bidder's proposal.

-OR-

3. The actual date work starts on the project

Use whichever date is the earliest.

Time charges may be suspended when the contractor will not be working on the project for a prolonged period of time. Time charges are most commonly suspended for the winter months when conditions are unfavorable for project work to continue. It could also be used if time charges are started for some preliminary project work that is performed and completed and the rest of the project work will not begin for some time.

Quantities can be entered into CARS and progressive estimates can be generated when time charges are suspended. Weekly Progress Reports can not be made until time charges are resumed.

Time charges are resumed whenever the project has been in a state of suspension and the contractor starts working again.

The status of the project is changed to Completed when all work has been finished. Weekly Progress Reports cannot be made after this date but quantities can be entered and estimates can be made.

The start date entered in the Change of Status will be used to compute time charges on the Weekly Progress report. The start and completion dates are also used on the Project Time for Completion.

Paper copies and distribution of the Change in Status is no longer required. The status of a project can be viewed in CARS at any time. An email is sent to the Construction Engineer and the FHWA whenever the status of a project is changed.

Enter/Change Construction Status in CARS

To enter or change the Construction Status:

1. From the Main Menu, click on the Construction Status link. The Construction Status Selection Page is displayed.
2. Click on the Add button. The Construction Status Maintenance page is displayed.
3. In the drop down box for Status, pick if the project is Started, Suspended, Resumed or Completed.
4. Enter the date of the status change.
5. Enter remarks about the status change. Remarks are required when the project is suspended.

If project work has not started and it is necessary to process a progressive estimate to pay for items such as contract bond or stockpiled material, the construction status must be shown as Started in order to generate the estimate. It is not necessary to change the status to Suspended after the estimate is generated. When actual work starts on the project, the Started date can be changed to the actual start date using the Maint link.

The last change of status can be edited up until the time when the project status is changed again.

PRECONSTRUCTION CONFERENCE

Requirements for the preconstruction conference are outlined in Standard Specification 108.01 A. The purpose of the preconstruction conference is for all interested parties to review contract requirements, the construction details and proposed work schedule prior to construction.

Representatives from the following organizations are typically invited to the conference:

1. DOT
2. The prime contractor and subcontractors
3. City and/or county
4. Utility companies
5. Railroads
6. Federal Highway Administration

The project engineer will conduct the conference and keep notes on items discussed. The project engineer will send a memo summarizing items discussed to the Construction Engineer with copies to the prime contractor, any subcontractors and the project file.

A general outline of information to be discussed at the conference and included in the memo is listed below. Additional items may be added depending on the type of project.

1. Project number
2. Date the conference is held
3. List of those attending the conference and their organization
4. The contractor should submit their Erosion Control Plan and where applicable, their Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan. Additional information on erosion control and the storm water pollution prevention plans can be found on the North Dakota Health Department's website at:
www.health.state.nd.us/wq/Storm/Construction/ConstructionHome.htm.
5. Discuss the contractor's safety and sanitation policy. They may submit a copy of their company policy. The discussion should include:
 - a. Basic safety requirements such as first aid kits, emergency numbers, trained personnel. The contractor's safety officer should be named.
 - b. Sanitation facilities and location
6. EEO & Affirmative Action Plan/DBE Requirements
 - a. The contractor may submit copies of their EEO and Affirmative Action plan
 - b. The EEO Officer will be named.
 - c. DBE participation goals will be discussed

- d. SFN 9423 Pre-Job Conference – Equal Employment Opportunity, Labor Standards, and DBE Participation Information form will be reviewed. The prime contractor and all subcontractors present will sign the form. The original copy is sent to the Civil Rights Office. Copies will be sent along with the preconstruction conference memo to the contractor and subcontractors and a copy is retained for the project file.
 - e. Work site bulletin board and poster requirements will be discussed. Posters will be furnished for the contractor and all subcontractors.
7. The plans, specifications and construction procedures will be discussed.
- a. Specification Section 104.06 Claims for Extra Compensation
 - (1) Discuss the Notice of Intent to File a Claim and hand out the form
 - (2) Discuss the terms for submission
 - b. The contractor must have a superintendent on the project at all times (Section 105.02). The contractor should name their superintendent.
 - c. Discuss the submission of material certifications and shop drawings
 - (1) The project engineer provides the contractor with a list of materials that require shop drawings or certifications
 - d. Discuss payroll procedures and submission
 - e. Railroad protective liability insurance
 - f. Procedures for requesting subcontracts
 - g. The contractor should provide a list of all subcontractors and their work description. The contractor should also provide a list of suppliers.
 - h. Discuss the contractor's starting date, work schedule and starting location
 - i. Utilities – input from utilities representatives
 - j. Field laboratory requirements
 - k. Discuss traffic control
 - (1) Signing prior to the start of construction
 - (2) Signing and sign maintenance during construction
 - (3) Inclement weather
 - (4) Name designated watch person and discuss submission of watch person logs
 - l. Structural contracts
 - (1) Suppliers for:
 - Concrete
 - Reinforcing steel
 - Structural steel
 - Specified miscellaneous items
 - (2) Pile hammer specifications
 - (3) Time limitations on truck mix concrete
 - (4) Welder's certification and welder electrode certification
 - (5) Surface and special surface finish
 - (6) Deck finish and deck cure

- m. Discuss haul roads and detours
 - (1) Inspection, maintenance, repair and release procedures
- n. Plan review and discussion
 - (1) Review of plan notes and drawings
 - (2) Other

Good communication between the DOT and the contractor at the preconstruction conference can get the project off to a good start. Participants need to come prepared to make worthwhile contributions to the conference. As the moderator, the project engineer must conduct the meeting in a businesslike manner while completing the scheduled agenda.

PROJECT DIARY

The project diary is used by the project engineer/manager to document daily activities on construction projects in the following categories:

1. The date of the diary entry
2. Days charged and days worked
3. If no day is being charged, the reason for lost time
4. Weather information including the time the weather readings were recorded, temperature, sky cover, humidity, wind direction and speed, and information about precipitation
5. Engineering staff
6. A summary of work being performed by the prime contractor and any subcontractors working on the project
7. The number of people working for the contractor and any subcontractors
8. A summary of equipment used by the contractor and any subcontractor
9. Any project visitors
10. The work hours of the contractor and any subcontractors
11. A Remarks section to document any information about the project work not listed in the other sections such as any discussions with the contractor, anything unique or unusual occurring on the project, unusual conditions encountered in construction of the project, etc.

The project diary information should be recorded using the CARS diary feature.

Only the designated project engineer/manager has user rights that allow information to be entered into the CARS project diary. Other users will only have rights to view the information.

Using the Project Diary portion of the CARS programs has some distinct advantages. Filling out the Days Charged and Days Worked in the project diary will automatically fill these fields on the Weekly Progress Report. Entering information in the Lost Time Reason field for working days not charged along with the entries in the Day Charged and Days Worked fields will automatically fill the lower portion of the Contract Time for Completion report used to show days charged when liquidated damages are assessed.

Using the project diary in CARS also allows you to copy information previously entered in the various fields into subsequent days. For example, when the contractor's equipment summary for a particular day is the same list of equipment as the day before, the CARS project diary section has a button that allows you to copy the previous day's equipment summary into the equipment summary field for the day you are entering. Also, if the equipment summary is almost the same, you can copy the previous day's summary and delete and add equipment as needed. This process can be used on any of the fields shown on the Project Diary Section Selection page.

When entering project diary information into CARS, you will notice two dates at the top of the first entry screen. The first date is the Date Created and refers to the day you are making the entries. The Diary Date refers to the actual date the documented entries occurred. Additions to the information for the diary date can be made up until midnight of the Date Created. After that, you will only be able to view the information. Additions or corrections to the diary entry can be made at a later time by using the Add Supplement button on the bottom of the Project Diary Section Selection page.

If you choose to keep the blue spiral bound paper project engineer's diary to keep field notes to aid you in entering information in the CARS project diary, the spiral bound diary should be retained in the project records as it would be considered a source document.

Enter Project Diary Information in CARS

To make entries in the project diary:

1. From the Main Menu, click on the Project Diary link. The Project Diary selection page is displayed. The last 5 diary dates will always be displayed. To display more dates, click on one of the options in the Selection Range drop down box and click on the Search button.
2. Click on the Add button to make a new diary entry. The Project Diary Days and Weather Maintenance page is displayed.
3. Enter the diary date. The date created is shown above the diary date and is the day the diary entry is actually recorded. For example, you are making a diary entry for Tuesday, August 17th but you don't enter the information until the morning of Wednesday, August 18th. In this example, the date created will show as 08/18/0000 but you would enter 08/17/0000 in the Diary Date text box. You will be able to edit the diary entry at any time on August 18th but after that you can only view the information. Any corrections or additional information must be added using a supplemental entry.
4. Enter the Day Charged and the Day Worked for the Diary Date entered. These day charges will be shown on the weekly progress report if they are entered here.
5. If you enter zero for the Day Charged, the reason for not charging a working day is entered in the Lost Time Reason text box.
6. Weather can be recorded from 1 to 3 times during the day. Time and temperature must be recorded but the other weather description choices are optional. Information for sky cover, wind direction, precipitation forecast, wind speed and precipitation intensity is entered by using the choices in the drop down box. All the choices available for these categories are standard descriptions used by the National Weather Service.
7. After all weather information is entered, click on Save or Save and Continue. Clicking on Save returns to the Project Diary Selection page. Clicking on Save and Continue will display the Project Diary Section Selection page.
8. The Project Diary Selection page has links for Engineering Staff, Work in Progress, Labor Force, Equipment Summary, Project Visitors, Hours Worked

and Remarks. A text box is provided in each category to enter information. A Copy Previous Day button is also provided on each page. Clicking on this button will take the information entered in the previous day's diary and put it in the text box. The information copied from the previous day can be edited or added to if needed.

9. When all the information is entered in a single category, click on the Save button. The Project Diary Section Selection page will be displayed.
10. Click on the View All link to display all the categories and the entries made in each.

Supplemental Project Diary Entries

When the date created date has passed, additions or corrections to the Project Diary can only be made by using the Add Supplement button.

1. From the Project Diary Selection page, click on the diary date where you want to add information. The Project Diary Days and Weather Maintenance page is displayed. Click on Continue. The Project Diary Section Selection page is displayed.
2. Click on the Add Supplement button. The Project Diary Supplement Maintenance page is displayed.
3. The diary date and the original date created are displayed along with the date of the supplement and the number assigned to the supplement.
4. A text box is provided for a short description of the supplement. This short description will be displayed after the supplement number on the Project Diary Section Selection page.
5. Enter the information for the supplement in the Supplement Text box. Click on Save. You will be returned to the Project Diary Section Selection page.

Just as with the other project diary entries, you will be able to edit the information entered in the supplement as long as it is the date created. After that, it can only be viewed. Supplemental entries will be displayed along with entries for the other diary sections with the View All link.

WEEKLY PROGRESS REPORTS

The Weekly Progress Report is used to track work progress and time charges on the project. The progress report shows the monetary amount of contract work completed and also expresses it as a percentage of the total original contract amount. The progress report shows the contract completion date along with the number of working or calendar days available. Important functions of the progress report are to show days charged and worked on a weekly basis, keep track of the total number of days charged and show the percentage of time expired.

The method used to determine time charges on construction projects is specified in the contract and can be found in the bidder's proposal for the project. The three methods of determining time charges commonly used are:

1. Working Day
The number of allowable working days is set in the contract and there is not a set completion date. The contractor is charged for only those days when the contractor is actually performing work on the project and those days when work could be performed and the contractor is not working. The contractor is not assessed a working day charge when project work cannot be accomplished for reasons such as adverse weather.
2. Completion Date
A set completion date is shown in the contract. Time charges are computed using calendar days and the contractor is charged a working day for each day of the week.
3. Completion Date with Guaranteed Working Days
The contract has a set completion date but is also allowed a guaranteed number of working days. The contractor is charged a working day for those days when actually performing contract work and for those days when work could be performed and the contractor is not working just as for a Working Day project. If the number of working days counted between the start date and the specified completion date are less than the guaranteed number, the completion date will be extended until the guaranteed number of working days have been counted.

Project time charges for working day contracts or completion date projects with guaranteed working days begin on:

1. The date shown on the Time for Completion page of the bidder's proposal
- OR
2. The actual date work starts on the project from the Construction Status
whichever date is earlier.

Project time charges for completion date projects begin on:

1. The proposed starting date indicated by the contractor on the Proposed Progress Chart. This chart is found in the bidder's proposal.
2. The actual date work starts on the project from the Construction Status whichever date is earlier.

For detailed instructions on assessing working days and other time charges on the project, refer to Section 108.04 B and C of the Standard Specifications. You should also check the Time for Completion page in the project proposal. Some projects have additional details as to how time charges are assessed and these would supercede the methods in the Standard Specifications and the CARS program.

Days charged and days worked are entered in the boxes provided when creating the progress report. Whole days or half days may be entered. If the project engineer uses the Project Diary to enter days charged and days worked, the days will automatically be filled in on the progress report.

On contracts with tied projects, progress reports will be made for each project number on the contract. Days charged will be the same on all projects as the time charges are assessed for the contract not the project. The days worked shown may be different for each project number on the contract as the contractor may not work the same number of days on each project.

The progress report divides all contract items into work detail categories and shows the percentage of the total contract each category represents. These work details are grouped by spec and code and the number of categories shown on the progress report will depend on the work items on the project. The Work Detail Categories Chart on page 16 shows the spec/code divisions for each category. When the progress report is created, each work detail included for the project has a remarks area to enter a short description of the work being done on the items in the work detail category. For example, the project includes the work detail category for Bituminous Pavements. A remark could be entered describing the mile numbers being paved or that the contractor was paving approaches. It is not required that information be entered in the Work Details section.

The progress report also has Remarks sections. The main remarks section will be used to summarize the project work performed by the prime contractor and any subcontractors working on the project. The DBE Remarks section is used to summarize work performed by any DBE subcontractors for the week.

Construction Project Road Conditions Reporting

The project engineer is responsible for reporting on the construction road conditions on a project. This information needs to be submitted at the start of a project and updated whenever road conditions change.

The Road Info section is used to enter remarks about construction activities affecting the traveling public. This information will be used to update the State Road Construction Map on the DOT website and is not shown on the Weekly Progress Report. Information included in the Road Info section may include the following:

1. The type of work taking place such as paving, milling, etc.
2. The type of roadway surface the public may encounter such as gravel, seal coat, etc.
3. Reduced speeds including the speed limit in mph
4. Methods of traffic control including flaggers, pilot cars, detours
5. If work is taking place in a specific area of the project, indicate it by mile points or reference points
6. Width/height restrictions. This information should always be included. Width restriction should be shown as the width of one lane of traffic in feet. It should also be noted if there are no width restrictions.

The information in the road info section should always be current and can be updated as many times as required during the week using the Maintain link by the most recent progress report created.

When a new Weekly Progress Report is generated, the Road Info must be filled in. If it is left blank, no information will be displayed on the website map.

Submission of Weekly Progress Reports

Two copies of the Weekly Progress Report must be printed. One copy will be given to the contractor. The other copy will be signed by the contractor and the project engineer. The contractor's signature indicates that he has reviewed the time charges for the week represented by the report and is in agreement. The signed copy will be filed in the project file. No additional copies are required as the progress report can be viewed on line or printed at any time.

Create Weekly Progress Report in CARS

To create the Weekly Progress Report in CARS:

1. From the Main Menu, click on the Weekly Progress Report link. The Weekly Progress Report Maintenance Selection page is displayed.
2. To create a new weekly progress report, click on the Add New Report button. The Weekly Progress Report Maintenance page is displayed.

3. The week ending date will be displayed. A date for the week ending will be displayed or the date can be entered. When the week ending date is correct, click on the Submit button.
4. The next page displays the report number and the week ending date. The following information will be entered:
 - a. Days worked and days charged can be entered. If the project diary is being used to document days worked and days charged, those will be shown here and can't be edited.
 - b. The remarks text box is used to summarize the contractor's work activities for the week.
 - c. The Road Construction Map Info text box is used to enter information about construction activities affecting the traveling public.
 - d. The DBE Remarks text box is used to summarize work activities for any DBE contractors.
5. After this information is entered, there are two options for saving and running the report:
 - a. Click on the Save and Run Report button. The information is saved and the Weekly Progress Report is generated for printing.
 - b. Click on the Save and Continue button. The Work Details page is displayed which lists the various works item categories for the project. Each item has a text box where a short description of work activity for that category can be noted. The table at the end of this section shows the spec and code items covered in each work details category.
 - c. Click on the Save and Run Report. The information is saved and the Weekly Progress Report is generated for printing. You can also click on the Save button and the report can be printed later.

The most recent report can be edited until a new progress report is created. Any report can be viewed and re-printed at any time by clicking on the week ending date on the Weekly Progress Report Maintenance Selection page.

Work Detail Categories Chart

The following chart shows the spec and code ranges associated with the work detail categories shown on the weekly progress report.

DESCRIPTION	BEG SPEC	END SPEC
General Provisions	100	199
Removals & Earthwork	200	299
Bases	300	399
Bituminous Pavements	400	499
Concrete Pavements	500	599
Structures	600	699
Drainage	714	714
Guardrail	764	764
Erosion Control	708	709
Mobilization & Traffic Control	702	702
	704	704
	710	710
	762	762
Concrete Work	748	748
	750	750
Water & Sewer	722	722
	724	724
	744	744
Misc.	706	706
	720	720
Signing, Lighting, Signals	754	754
	770	770
	772	772
900 Provisions	900	999